



State Senator  
**Don Williams**  
Senate President Pro Tempore

Legislative Office Building, Room 3300  
Hartford, CT 06106-1591

Phone: 1-800-842-1420

E-mail: [Williams@senatedems.ct.gov](mailto:Williams@senatedems.ct.gov)

Web: [www.senatedems.ct.gov](http://www.senatedems.ct.gov)

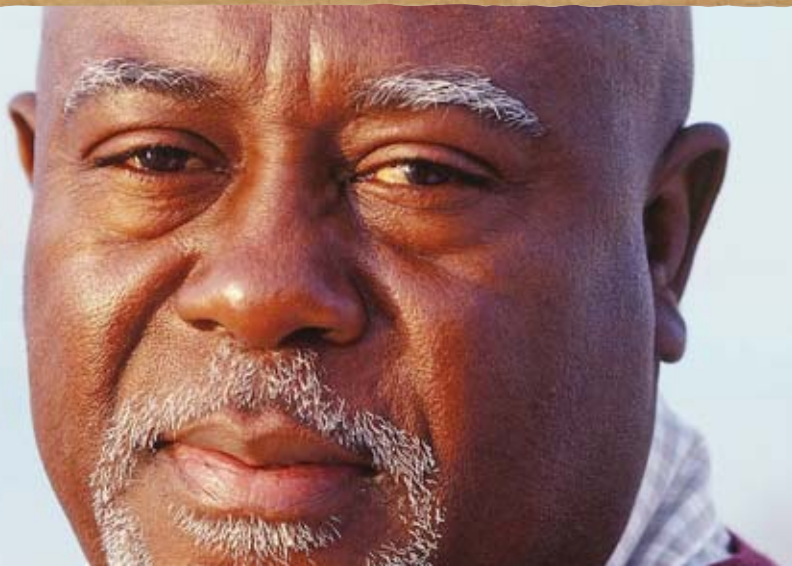
PRSRT STD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
HARTFORD CT  
PERMIT NO. 3937

# VOLUNTEERS NEEDED



**American  
Red Cross**

Connecticut  
Disaster  
Readiness  
Project



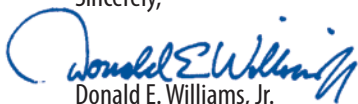
Dear Friends,

The very first responsibility of government is to protect its citizens.

Recent events have reminded us that careful planning is required to be prepared for every circumstance. The massive hurricanes that hit the southeastern states and the flooding in Connecticut caused by torrential rains in October point to the necessity of disaster readiness. Additionally, we must stand ready to respond to more remote threats such as the possibility of a pandemic of avian flu or man-made disasters rooted in terrorist activity.

As President Pro Tempore of the state Senate, I have taken a lead role in initiating efforts to increase our state's level of preparedness and to better equip the Red Cross and other organizations. This mailing is intended to make you aware of the efforts already underway. I welcome your thoughts as we proceed and hope you will help us achieve our goal.

Sincerely,



Donald E. Williams, Jr.

## State Action to Improve Readiness

### **Increased Coordination Between Responders**

Beginning with a forum held last year at the Legislative Office Building and continuing efforts into 2006, officials from the state Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security, the Department of Public Safety, representatives from the Red Cross, utility companies, health departments and others have begun to discuss ways to increase our level of readiness.

### **Disaster Relief Infrastructure**

The General Assembly has authorized \$300,000 to enable the Red Cross of Connecticut to purchase much-needed emergency response vehicles. I am committed to working to ensure final approval of this funding by the State Bond Commission.

# SIMPLE THINGS CONNECTICUT RESIDENTS CAN DO TO **PREPARE** THEIR FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES

## 1 Build a Kit

What you have on hand when a disaster occurs can make a big difference, so plan on storing enough supplies for everyone in your family for at least three days. Visit **[www.ctredcross.org](http://www.ctredcross.org)** to learn how to put together a disaster kit that will help keep your family safe.

## 2 Make a Plan

In an emergency, the more you have planned out ahead of time, the calmer and more assured you and your family will be. Take the time to talk about potential disasters, establish emergency contacts, train in evacuating your home and determine two common meeting places.

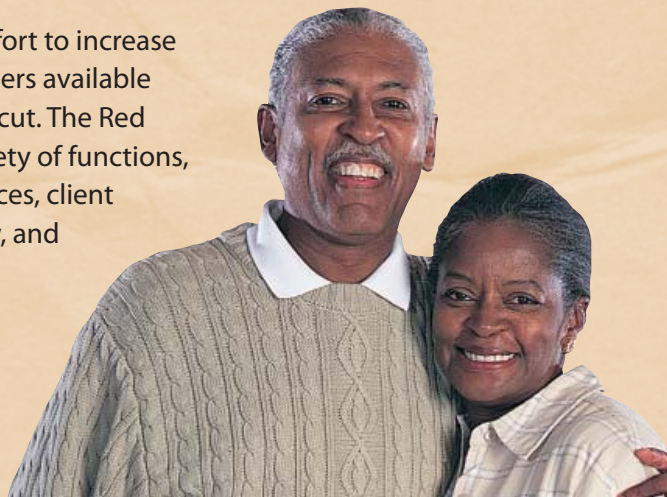
## Give Blood

3 Scheduling regular blood donations ensures a safe and stable supply is available for Connecticut at all times. Call **1-800-GIVE-LIFE** to schedule a blood donation.

## 4 Get Trained

Each year, the American Red Cross responds to more than 60,000 disasters. Most are tragedies like house or apartment fires. Others are more catastrophic in scale such as hurricanes, floods, and other natural or man-made disasters. The work is important and success depends on volunteers.

In Connecticut, we've launched a new effort to increase the number of Red Cross-trained volunteers available to respond to a disaster here in Connecticut. The Red Cross needs individuals to serve in a variety of functions, including volunteer staffing, health services, client casework, transportation facilities supply, and sheltering.





**American  
Red Cross**

## 5 Volunteer

Sign up to be Red Cross volunteer. Helping others feels good, and helps you feel good about yourself. Your local Red Cross can work with you to provide rewarding experiences, opportunities to utilize your talents, or provide training to help you serve your community.

All Red Cross disaster relief is provided free of charge as a gift from the American people. It is made possible by generous contributions of people's time, money, and skills.

Call your local Red Cross at **1-877-287-3327** or visit their website at **[www.ctredcross.org](http://www.ctredcross.org)** to become a trained Red Cross disaster volunteer.

### **Volunteer Information:**

Red Cross

1-877-287-3327

**[www.ctredcross.org](http://www.ctredcross.org)**

